



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

in this town. Flowering in June, it is so abundant as to give the whole field of several acres a bright pink tint.

Quercus palustris, Du Roi, is quite common in this locality, and, in every specimen that I have examined, the acorns are marked with longitudinal stripes of bright orange-color. I find no mention of this in Gray, or in Emerson's Trees of Massachusetts or in Michaux's Sylva, and am at a loss to explain it. If it is a characteristic of the type it would seem of sufficient importance to merit mention. If merely a form it is interesting, and perhaps marks a hybrid between the type and *Q. coccinea*, Wang., var. *tinctoria*. Will some one who knows volunteer an explanation?

Amherst, Mass., March 20th, 1882.

W. E. STONE.

Vegetable Fibres in the Oriole's Nest.—A nest of the *Icterus Baltimore* sent me from Westchester, N.Y., by Mr. W. D. Abbott, proves to be made of the fibres of *Asclepias Cornuti*, and lined with tawny wool from the fruit of the buttonwood, *Platanus occidentalis*. The liber-cells of the *Asclepias* are $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, very slender, and pointed at both ends. If the bark could be gathered in sufficient quantity it would make a very fine, soft, silky and tough paper, unlike any now made in the country.

D. C. EATON.

Note on Alder Catkins.—I find, upon careful examination in my usual haunts about this city, that the *male* catkins of the alders seem to have very generally failed this year. It might be well to observe whether this is so elsewhere. Can any one guess the cause? In many years of herborizing I never knew them scarce before. Now it is difficult to find any, and the few detected are stunted and poor.

Providence, R. I.

W. W. BAILEY.

Botanical Literature.

A Synopsis of the North American Lichens: Part I., comprising the Parmeliacei, Cladonieae and Coenogonieae. By Edward Tuckerman, A.M. Boston, S. E. Cassino, 1882.

The long-felt want of a guide to the North American Lichens is at last supplied, and in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired. It is now thirty-four years since the first Synopsis by the learned author was published; and that, though it gave the best descriptions of our lichens in the language, had become to a large extent obsolete through the advance in knowledge both of the anatomy and of the species of these most difficult plants; and the difficulties in the way of ordinary students in their study were almost insurmountable. The microscope, which, in 1848, had hardly been applied to lichens, has revealed new wonders and rendered necessary modifications of the system then adopted, though this in its basis is not substantially changed. The Genera Lichenum of the author presented these modifications in a very able and learned manner, and in the present work we have its application in the study of our species. In mechanical appearance the book is a worthy companion to the Genera, one of the best printed botanical works ever issued in this country, and it is only to be regretted that some errors of the press have escaped correction.